Statement

State-wise closed Sugar Mills ***during the*** *last* ***3 Sugar Seasons***

State	2001-2002(P)	2002-2003(P)	2003-2004(P)
Punjab Haryana	1	1	1
Rajasthan Uttar	2	2	2
Pradesh	12	18.	19
Madhya Pradesh	4	5	5
Gujarat	7	5	7
Maharashtra	27	20	49
Bihar	18	18	18
Assam	3	3	3
Andhra Pradesh	5	7	14
Karnataka	6	8	13
Tamil Nadu	2	3	4
Kerala	1	1	2
Orissa	4	4	4
West Bengal	1	1	1
Nagaland		1	1
Pondicherry			1
Goa		-	-
ALL INDIA		97	144

(P)-Provisional

National Spot Exchange for Agriculture Produce

490. SHRI C RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a National Spot Exchange for Agriculture produce has been set up;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) the number of States which have passed the legislation for Agriculture Produce Marketing Companies so far; and

(d) how the new exchange would address the concerns of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX), Financial Technologies (India) Ltd., and National Agricultural cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) have entered into a joint venture for the establishment of National Spot Exchange for Agriculture Produce (NSEAP), which will permit participants all over the country to trade with each other electronically and settle their trades under the support and regulations of NSEAP. This joint venture was established on the 10th February, 2005 and the exchange is expected to commence live trading during the second half of the 2005-2006.

(c) Organized marketing of agricultural commodities is promoted in the country through a network of regulated markets. All the State Governments and Union Territories (Except Kerala, Manipur, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands) have enacted legislation *viz.* the Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulation Act (APMC Act) to-provide for regulation of the agricultural markets. No State Government/ Union Territories Administration has enacted separate legislation for setting up of Agricultural Produce Marketing Companies.

(d) By disseminating spot price data on agricultural commodities, NSEAP would enable farmers across the country to access the national market and to trade with each other on an electronic platform and settle their trades under the support and regulations of NSEAP.

Rise in prices of essential commodities

491. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of essential commodities have been rising unchecked despite a commitment in the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government;

(b) if so, the extent of increase in the prices of these commodities during the period of the current Government, so far, and the increase registered month to month in the Consumer Price Index; and

(c) the main Feasons for the price increase, and the steps taken to curb the rising prices of essential commodities?